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Ervin Subcommittee to Study Freedom of Press

By LYLE DENNISTON Star Staff Writer

Senate Judicary subcommitfreedom of the press and of a ry, "Selling of the Pentagon." series of recent official actions So far, only one specific piece against reporters and news me-

Sen. Sam .J Ervin Jr., D-N.C., subcommittee chairman, ex-

more than two years, and decid-information. ed to go ahead with it after the

attempt was made to force the sources said. CBS network to disclose how it tee is planning a broad study of made the television documenta- also expected to examine these eral agents of press cards or

> of legislation is expected be anasubcommittee source said.

Aides said Ervin had been or agencies to force newsmen to criminal investigations. thinking of such a study for disclose confidential solurces or

government tried to stop news-subcommittee may offer a pro-Commission regulates, through papers after stories have appapers from publishing the se-posal in favor of full press free-"equal time" and "fairness doc-peared.

cret "Pentagon papers," and an dom for the broadcast industry, trine" rules,

The subcommittee study is other issues:

The power of grand juries and lyzed during the investigation, a sue subpoenas to reporters or events. news organizations.

what may be broadcast.

And, the use by police or fedother press credentials as a "cover" for watching over demcongressional committees to is onstrations or other public

In studying the Justice Desubcommittee chairman, ex-pects to hold hearings that may March 23 by Sen. James Pear-by Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell against three newspapers which continue for more than a month son, R-Kan, with 13 co-sponsors, to control subpoenas to require published the secret Pentagon to forbid federal courts, juries, newsmen to give information to study of the Vietnam war, the subcommittee will probe not The effect on the freedom of only court orders to forbid pub-TV and radio broadcasters when lishing stories,, but also possible However, it is possible that the the Federal Communications criminal cases to punish news-

> newspapers for printing stories did not actually use on the air, to be examining how newspa- outlets. pers got the secret study.

of broadcasters will be designed, formation to official investigations said, to see if the scope of those rights is less for TV and Supreme Court. A test case intradio because they are govern-volves an attempt by the governnot regulated.

hand over materials it gathmade no attempt to prosecute ered for its documentary, but about the Pentagon documents. several members of the House But two grand juries, in Boston argued that broadcasters enjoy and Los Angeles, are understood less freedom than other news

The subcommittee's analysis poenas to force newsmen or of the First Amendment rights news organizations to supply inment-regulated than for newspament to require a New York pers and magazines, which are Times reporter, Earl Caldwell, to appear and testify before a During the attempt to cite grand jury investigating the CBS for contempt for refusing to Black Panthers movement.